

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A luminous panel component for a headlamp, said headlamp having a housing in which said luminous panel component is mounted, said luminous panel comprising:

at least one planar luminous panel having a plurality of luminous-element chips;

~~an optical element~~ a lens arranged in the beam path of the light beam emitted by the luminous panel;

the luminous-element chips (4) of the luminous panel (3, 21, 31) being arranged in a common recess (5);

the recess (5) being on one side facing in the direction of light emission (8);

~~an edge~~ a plurality of edges (9, 25, 32) of said recess, the edge being in a spatial arrangement to the luminous-element chips (4) such that a predetermined luminance gradient (G, G', G'') in a light distribution (L) of the headlamp is formed ~~in the region of~~ by the edges (9, 25, 32);

wherein at least one light-emitting diode chip (4) is substantially directly adjoining at least one edge wall (7', 25' or 32') comprising the edge which produces a light/dark boundary (LDB), whereby a luminance gradient (G') formed by said at least one edge wall (7', 25' or 32') is larger than a luminance gradient G'' formed by another of said other edge walls (7'', 25'' or 32'');

said edge of said planar luminous panel being in a focal plane of said lens (2, 23, 34).

2. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1, wherein the recess (5) is trough-shaped with an edge wall (7, 7', 7'') which runs perpendicularly to the direction of light emission (8) of the luminous panel (3) and stands up from a bottom side (6) of the recess (5) and on whose side facing away from the bottom side (6) runs the edge (9).

3. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1 wherein the edge (9) runs peripherally in a plane which is oriented perpendicularly to the main direction of emission of the luminous panel (3).

4. (Currently Amended) A headlamp according to claim 1 wherein the shape of the edge wall (7, 7') and/or edge (9) is such that, in combination with the lens ~~optical element~~ (2, 23, 34) mounted in front, a predetermined luminance distribution is produced.

5. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1 wherein the edge wall (7, 7') and/or the edge (9) of the recess (5) has a rectangular or triangular or circle segment shape in a top view, and in that the edge (32, 32') has a break (33) for forming an asymmetrical light/dark boundary (LDB).

6. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1 wherein several light-emitting diode chips (4) are arranged directly adjoining at least the edge wall (7, 7') comprising the edge (9) which produces the light/dark boundary (LDB).

7. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1 wherein the recess (5) is filled with a light-converting luminescent material, such that the light emitted by the luminous-element chips (4) is converted to white light.

8. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1 wherein a light-converting luminescent material is integrated in a cast material which covers the recess (5).

9. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1 wherein a bottom side (6) of the recess (5) is reflectively coated.

10. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1 wherein the planar luminous panel (3) is integrated in a luminous plate (1), the recess (5) being set in a front side (10) of the luminous plate (1), the front side running perpendicularly to the direction of light emission (8).

11. (Currently Amended) A headlight for a vehicle comprising:
a luminous element chip having a perimeter and a first extent in a direction of illumination;
a luminous panel, said luminous element chip being within a recess of said luminous panel, said luminous panel having an edge;
said edge having a portion at a second extent in the direction of illumination, said second extent being further from a base portion of said luminous panel than said first extent; [[and]]
said second extent of said edge being in a focal plane of a lens of said headlight;
and
said edge of said luminous panel having a portion in a first spaced relation with said perimeter of said chip and said edge having at least one other portion in a second spaced relation with said perimeter;

wherein said edge limits a light distribution to be contained within the region of said edge.

12. (Previously Presented) The headlight of claim 11 wherein said luminous panel is a triangle.

13. (Previously Presented) The headlight of claim 11 wherein one of said first or second spaced relations of said edge with said perimeter is substantially adjacent.

14. (Previously Presented) The headlight of claim 11 wherein said first spaced relation of said housing edge with said perimeter causes a first luminous gradient and said second spaced relation of said edge with said perimeter creates a second luminous gradient.

15. (Currently Amended) A vehicle headlight comprising:
a luminous element chip having a perimeter and an extent in a direction of illumination;
a luminous panel having a base for attachment of said luminous element chip and said luminous panel having a recess with an edge;
said edge being substantially on a focal plane of a lens of the vehicle headlight;

said edge having a first portion in a first spaced relation with said perimeter and said extent of said luminous element chip such that said edge limits light distribution through said lens to a first luminous gradient ~~occurs~~ occurring in association with said first portion; and

said edge having a second portion in a second spaced relation with said perimeter and said extent of said luminous element chip such that said edge limits light distribution through said lens to a second luminous ~~occurs~~ occurring in association with said second portion.

16. (Currently Amended) A headlamp for vehicles comprising:
at least one planar luminous panel having a plurality of luminous-element chips;
~~an optical element~~ a lens arranged in the beam path of the light beam emitted by the luminous panel;
the luminous-element chips (4) of the luminous panel (3, 21, 31) being arranged in a common recess (5);
the recess (5) being on one side facing in the direction of light emission (8);
an edge (9, 25, 32), the edge being in a spatial arrangement to the luminous-element chips (4) and said lens such that a predetermined luminance gradient (G, G', G'') in a light distribution (L) of the headlamp is formed in the region of the edges (9, 25, 32);
wherein a shape of the edge wall (7, 7') and/or edge (9) is such that, in combination with the optical element (2, 23, 34) mounted in front, a predetermined luminance distribution is produced.

17. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 16 wherein several light-emitting diode chips (4) are arranged directly adjoining at least the edge wall (7, 7') comprising the edge (9) which produces the light/dark boundary (LDB).

18. (Previously Presented) A headlamp of claim 1 wherein said at least one planar luminous panel is adapted to be mounted as a component within a light housing.

19. (Previously Presented) A headlamp according to claim 1, said headlamp further comprising a housing, said housing being adapted to mount at least one planar luminous panel.

20. (Previously Presented) The headlamp of claim 1 wherein said predetermined luminance gradient and light distribution produces a luminance gradient distribution consisting of a light beam selected from the group consisting of: a dipped beam, a main beam, a motorway beam and a cornering beam.

21. (Previously Presented) The luminous panel for a headlamp of claim 1 wherein said light distribution is asymmetric.

22. (Previously Presented) The luminous panel for a headlamp of claim 11 wherein said light distribution is asymmetric.

23. (Previously Presented) The luminous panel for a headlamp of claim 15 wherein said light distribution is asymmetric.

24. (Previously Presented) The luminous panel for a headlamp of claim 16 wherein said light distribution is asymmetric.